



## REGULATIONS GOVERNING POOL & SPA BARRIERS

The City of Maricopa shares the same concerns as other cities and the State of Arizona when it comes to pool safety. This bulletin is offered as a general simplified guideline to assist members of the public and does not contain all the details contained in the City of Maricopa Building Ordinance Pool regulation.

### **SWIMMING POOL PERIMETER BARRIER**

A swimming pool must be provided with a barrier or fence that is installed, inspected and approved before final plastering or filling the pool with water.

The barrier must comply with the following:

1. The top must be at least 60 inches above finished grade measured on the outside of the barrier. Where fencing material is used, like wrought iron or chain link, there shall be a maximum of 2" between the bottom of the barrier and the finished grade unless the grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck in which case the space may be increased to 4". If the design is such that it creates a foothold or ladder effect, allowing a child to easily climb the fence (e.g. block with wrought iron), then it must be constructed so that there are no horizontal members closer together than 45".

Spas which meet all of the following criteria may use an approved safety cover and need not comply with the barrier described above.

1. Spa must be no wider than 8' at the widest part, and;
2. Cover must be latchable by use of a tool or other device that causes the spa to be reasonably inaccessible to children, and;
3. Cover must be able to support 100 lbs. static load, and;
4. Cover must be designed to prevent the passage of a 4" sphere into the water when in the closed position.
2. Openings in the barrier, when using chain link fencing, shall not allow the passage of a sphere 1 1/4" in diameter and the fencing shall not be less than 11 gage.
3. Gates shall comply with the above requirements and pedestrian gates shall be self-closing and self-latching. When the latch is less than 54" above the bottom of the gate, the latching mechanism shall be located on the pool side no less than 3" below the gate top and there shall not be an opening larger than 1/2" within 18" of the release mechanism. Pedestrian gates must swing away from the pool. All other gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and shall be locked at all times when not in use.

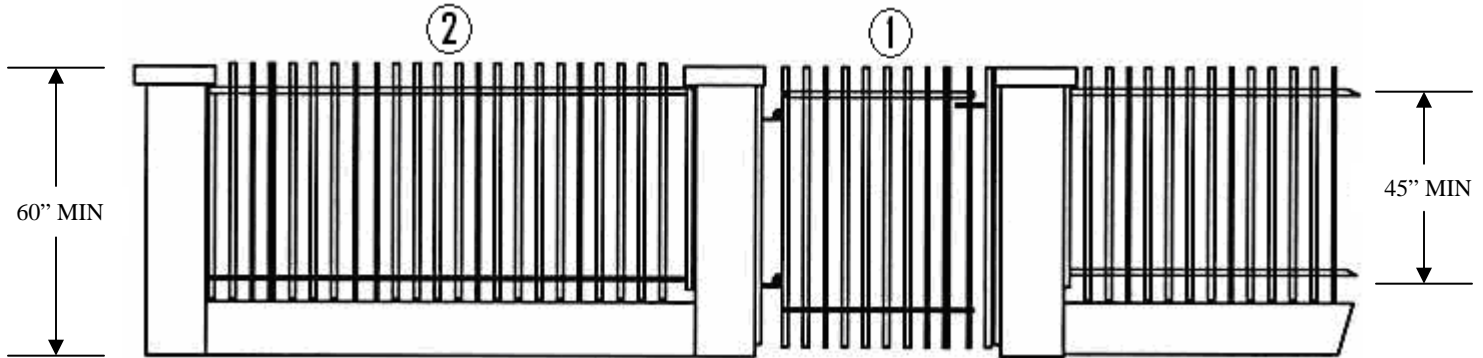
### **INTERMEDIATE BARRIER**

1. Where a wall of the house is used for part of the perimeter barrier and contains doors that open directly to the pool area, a barrier which meets the requirements of a perimeter barrier must be installed, except when approved by the Building Official, one of the following may be used:
  1. The height of the separation or intermediate barrier need only be 48" and must not obstruct the view of the pool.
  2. Self-closing and self-latching devices installed on all doors with direct access to the pool with release located a minimum of 54" above the floor.
  3. An approved alarm permanently attached to the structure at all doors with direct access to the pool.
    - i. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after the door and its screen, if present, are opened, and be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than 85 dBA when measured indoors at 10 feet (3048mm).
    - ii. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions.
    - iii. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as a touchpad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no longer than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door.
2. Other means of protection may be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than that afforded any of the devices described above. Where an aboveground pool structure is approved for use as a perimeter barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then the ladder or steps must be capable of being locked or removed to prevent access to the pool. If the ladder or steps cannot be removed, then they must be surrounded by a perimeter barrier.
3. Indoor pool protection must meet the requirements of Item 1 of this section.



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(DRAWINGS ARE EXAMPLES ONLY)  
**PERIMETER BARRIER**

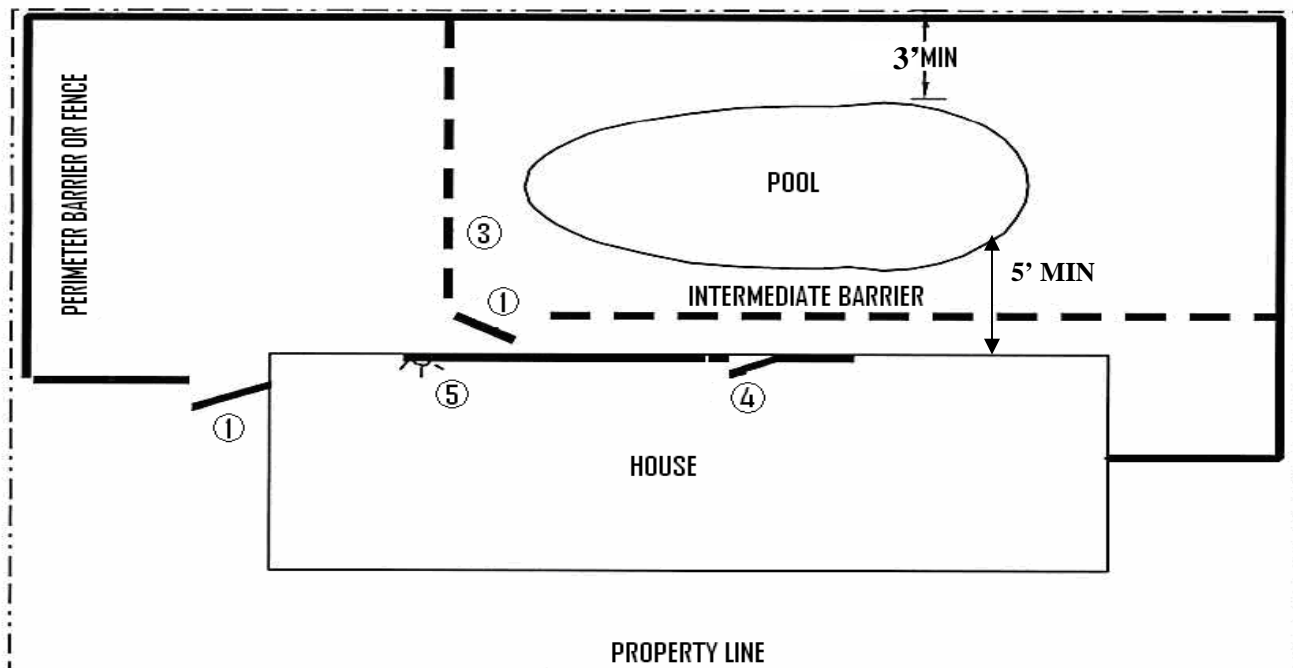


**NOTES:**

1. GATE MUST MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR PERIMETER BARRIER AND MUST SWING AWAY FROM POOL. GATE MUST BE SELF CLOSING AND SELF LATCHING WITH LATCH AT 54" MINIMUM.
2. VERTICAL BARRIER MEMBERS MUST NOT ALLOW A 4" BALL TO PASS BETWEEN THEM AND MUST NOT HAVE HORIZONTAL PIECES CLOSER TOGETHER THAN 45".

**INTERMEDIATE BARRIER:**

3. WROUGHT IRON OR EQUAL FENCE 45' HIGH WITH UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF POOL OR;
4. SELF CLOSING AND LATCHING DOOR WITH LATCH AT 54" MINIMUM OR;
5. ALARM AS DESCRIBED IN CITY OF MARICOPA ZONING ORDINANCE.



**POOL SETBACKS:** Per the City of Maricopa Zoning Ordinance, pool setbacks from water edge to lot perimeter barrier/fence shall be a minimum of 3', from waters edge to patio slab a minimum of 30", and/or from waters edge to building wall structure, a min. of 5'.